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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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On the court



Delaney Brown takes a shot on the hoop for Agawam girls basketball in a game against West Springfield during the winter season. More girls basketball photos are on page 8. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

AHS in great need of renovation or replacement

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Is it time for a “new” Agawam High School? School officials here are looking at the options for either renovating or possibly doing a full replacement of Agawam High School, a 65-year-old building located on Mill Street. Agawam has continuously applied for assistance through the Massachusetts School Building Authority for funding for various projects to renovate the building.

Agawam High School is one of just a few schools in the area outside of Springfield and Holyoke that have not seen a facelift. In the last decade, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, West Springfield, Longmeadow, and Southwick have all seen major upgrades or brand new buildings for their high school populations. Agawam has submitted a new statement of interest to the MSBA citing the need to make major updates to the science wing, but the entire school is in need of major

AHS | page 2

Officials seek answers from county retirement board, or ‘Agawam Crony Cabal’

An audit report released last month pointed to mismanagement of funds

By Dalton Zbierski
aan@turley.com

AGAWAM – Municipalities throughout the county are preparing to take action against the Hampden County Regional Board of Retirement after the release of a Feb. 21 audit that left more questions than answers and generated outrage over probable malfeasance and mismanagement of funds.

And towns including Hampden, which have had to pay rising contribution costs over the last several years, hope they’ll get some of those funds back if the re-

tirement board can’t show proper documentation.

“One of the key questions has to do with those invoices that amount to well over \$200,000, for which there doesn’t seem to be any backup material,” said Hampden Town Administrator Robert Markel of the audit report during the March 1 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. “That money might somehow be repaid, or at least we should have a decision to go after it.”

On March 1, Hampden Board of Selectmen Chair Donald Davenport identified another issue with the retirement board’s representation that he did not approve of.

“I think it’s important to note that you really have what I call ‘The Agawam Crony Cabal,’” Dav-

enport said. “You have Mr. (Richard) Theroux, who is the former Agawam town clerk; you have Karl Schmaelzle, who is a Agawam retired firefighter; and you have the Agawam Town Treasurer/Collector, Laurel Placzek. You have three of the five [board] members from Agawam, the [retirement board] office is Agawam, and their counsel is also the town counsel for Agawam.”

Davenport suggested contacting a state representative or senator to request that a bill be filed to require all five board members to come from different communities. Davenport’s Agawam-centric inquiry is among many that remain unanswered.

On March 3, Markel led a teleconference with the retirement

ANSWERS | page 3

Hampden Town Administrator and President Biden share longstanding ties

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HAMPDEN – On his first day at Archmere Academy in Claymont, Del., current Hampden Town Administrator Robert Markel formed a friendship that would last a life time. Markel’s acquaintance was none other than Joseph Biden, who, six decades later, would become the 46th president of the United States.

“The first day of class when we were freshmen, he sat next to me; he was the first person I met in high school,” Markel said.

The two students carved out a friendship that still exists today. As years have passed, Markel and Biden have consistently had each other’s backs, lending support through a myriad of campaigns while enjoying each other’s company outside of politics.

TIES | page 2



Photo: Hampden Town Administrator Robert Markel and U.S. President Joseph Biden have remained close since meeting on the first day of high school more than 60 years ago. The photo above was taken at American International College’s Model Congress during the 1970’s, where Markel invited Biden to do the keynote speech. PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT MARKEL.



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PLEASE
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NEWSPAPER

AHS ■ from page 1

updates.

The only work that has been done to the building in recent years is major upgrades to the locker room areas in the athletic halls on each side of the gymnasium. Those upgrades were funded by the town through a borrowing and were aimed at upgrading the athletic facilities. In addition to the locker rooms, Agawam built a new varsity baseball field, made upgrades at the varsity softball field, the tennis and outdoor basketball courts, and a stadium field with a new track and artificial surface for football, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse.

Superintendent Sheila Hoffman recently met to discuss Agawam's application with MSBA officials. The MSBA will now tour the buildings to assess Agawam's needs against the other 29 applications that are pending. It is not known how much funding will be made by the MSBA, and what percentage the Town of Agawam could be on the hook for to make renovations

or replace the building entirely.

There is now some urgency for status of Agawam High School. While other school buildings in town have had upgrade to their boilers and HVAC systems, Agawam High School's boiler, roof, and other major parts of the infrastructure are nearing the end of their life and will need replacement. The roof is already in disrepair and requires constant maintenance.

The process to get a replacement or renovation project approved could take many years depending on the process of the MSBA takes as well as available funding as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Southwick went through a process with the MSBA that took almost 10 years before a major renovation/addition project came to fruition. A brand new high school building could cost about \$120 million, estimates Mayor William Sapelli, who was also previously the superintendent of schools for several years.

Test scores waived in scholarship application

AGAWAM – Due to pandemic and the closing of national testing sites, many students have been unable to take college entrance exams. As a result, SAT and ACT scores are NOT required to apply for a Walter S. Barr Scholarship. Those students in college, as well as graduating seniors, are all encouraged to apply.

Completed Scholarship and Fellowship applications must be received either electronically or be mailed to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Ste. 2K, Westfield, MA 01085, no later than March 15. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, on-line at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

Last year, The Horace Smith Fund awarded \$297,000 in the form of 21 Scholarships and 3 Fellowships to deserving students. All applicants must be residents of Hampden County and full-time students. Scholarships awards of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annually and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$5,000 annually and renewable for two additional years. All recipients must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 each semester.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including merit, financial need, recommendations, and community involvement. Of greatest importance is the applicant's personal written account of why they feel deserving of the award.

TIES ■ from page 1

As a teenager, Biden "was a gregarious person – one of those fellas who got to know everyone and would talk to anybody everybody," said Markel.

Markel recalls that Biden was extremely self-conscious about his stutter, a speech impairment that he spent countless hours working to overcome. Mean-spirited students called Biden "Stutter Head," although the nickname largely disappeared by senior year.

In the process of improving his stutter, outgoing Biden made a name as a skillful football receiver and eventually became the junior and senior class president at Archmere, an all-boys Catholic school at the time.

Markel describes himself as the "Original 'Ridin' with Biden guy"; the future president's first chauffeur. In Markel's 1950's Studebaker Lurk, the two friends discussed girls and sports; both students were big Phillies and Eagles fans. At the Biden residence in New Castle County, Del., many memories were made, Markel recalled.

"In my junior and senior years, I had access to a car and used to drive to school. Every day, I would pick [Biden] up at his house on Wilson Road and drop him off after school," said Markel. "His house, in fact, became a bit of a hangout for seven or eight of us, who were close friends. We'd stay most of the afternoon, and I'd go home for dinner only after hanging out at Joe's house for a couple hours."

Biden's appetite for politics was apparent at an early age. When Biden came up empty-handed in a bid to become Class President at Archmere, his failed attempt carried significant weight.

"I know it affected him a lot. He was really unhappy senior year when he lost that election to a very close friend of mine and his, Dave Walsh," said Markel. "I noticed that this was a lot more important to him than, perhaps, it would have been for another high school kid."

Biden's ambition was only strengthened in the aftermath of being defeated by a peer. Markel said that Biden took heavily after his mother Catherine, a kindhearted woman, who would often offer the boys dating advice and encourage Biden's political aspirations.

"We used to sit there in the afternoons, sometimes, and we'd talk to her, and she'd give us advice on what we were doing wrong and why our girlfriends didn't like us or were angry with us, stuff like that," Markel said.

One afternoon in the Biden basement, a political conversation ensued. As Biden's classmates inquired as to why

he was so invested in the topic, a friend by the name of Charles Del Campo intervened.

"Charlie, who now lives in Los Angeles, said, 'Joe wants to be President; can't you understand?,'" Markell recalled. "We looked over at Joe. He didn't say, 'yes,' or, 'no,' but he had a little bit of a smile on his face. You can tell by his eyes that clearly that's something he had been thinking about and something he wanted to do."

After graduating from Archmere in 1961, Biden studied at the University of Delaware, graduating in 1965 before earning his law degree from Syracuse University in 1968. Markel then graduated from the University of Notre Dame.

It didn't take either man long to enter the political field. Biden was first elected to the New Castle County Council in 1970 and started his own law practice soon after. Markel, a political science professor at American International College in Springfield for 20 years, served seven terms as a Springfield City Councilor.

In 1972, Biden was elected as a U.S. Senator at the age of 29. Markel was highly impressed by Biden's upset victory.

"[Biden] was the highest ranked Democrat in Delaware so when it came time to nominate someone to run for the U.S. Senate, he was the obvious choice, and he won in 1972 by a rather thin margin. He beat Rep. Senator [Caleb] Boggs in a very Republican state. Clearly, he was on his way," said Markel.

Biden ran unsuccessfully for U.S. President in both 1988 and 2008 but remained in the U.S. Senate from 1973 until 2009, when he became Vice President under President Barack Obama.

Despite his national success, Biden remained close to Markel, aiding him in his successful campaign to become Springfield Mayor in 1992.

"He was very helpful to me when I ran for mayor, as well as when I ran for city council, raising money, coming to Springfield. And when I ran for mayor, he came up twice. He did a fundraiser for me in Springfield and did one in Boston to help me with the campaign. That's who he is. He's loyal to his friends; never asked me for anything in return," said Markel.

Outside of the political realm, Biden and Markel have maintained a healthy friendship for decades. Before Biden entered the White House, Markel said that the two would meet in Delaware five to six times each year, since Markel's parents lived in nearby Philadelphia.

"Whenever I'd be down there, we'd get together, talk and go out and do stuff," said Markel. "One of the things we always did, the morning of Thanksgiving, I'd always be there, and some of the old classmates would meet in a park in Wilmington and play touch football on Thanksgiving morning until we got too old and fat to do it. We used to call it the 'Toilet Bowl.'"

Last year, Markel aspired to become a delegate for the Democratic National Convention. After contacting Biden's office, Markel was given a more prominent role as a member of the Massachusetts delegation to the Electoral College.

The title allowed Markel to officially file a ballot for Biden to become president; of 11 individuals, Markel was the only Massachusetts elector who was personally endorsed by Biden.

On Dec. 14, 2020, Markel entered the House Chamber in the U.S. Capital building to cast the ballot for Biden. The experience was nearly beyond belief.

"I almost pinched myself saying, 'Is this really happening? Is this guy who I used to hang out with and have known all my life really becoming the President of the United States?' There's a certain surreal quality to that, but Joe is a striver. He doesn't give up," said Markel.

So far, Markel said he approves of the job Biden has done in the Oval Office. Markel is confident that Biden will avoid the "angry tweeting at nighttime, personal attacks and so forth that was all part of the Trump era."

Upon becoming president, Biden's phone number changed and his security increased immensely. To contact his longtime friend, Markel now must communicate through Biden's sister Valerie, who Markel has also known since high school; the two even went on a New Year's Eve date in Center City Philadelphia more than a half century ago.

When all is said and done, regardless of policies or political ratings, Biden and Markel will remain good friends. In the meantime, Markel is enjoying his friend's tremendous success.

"To have a member of my high school class[become president], it's just amazing and astonishing. Plus, I think he's doing a good job at this point," Markel said.

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Here's a return to normalcy: It's tax time!

February is drawing to a close and that means it's time to turn the page to no one's favorite subject – taxes.

Some well-organized residents no doubt have already filed their federal and state returns in time for the first day of processing, which was about two weeks ago. The rest of us have until April 15. Take note of that date, because unless the U.S. Treasury Department or Mass. Dept. of Revenue make an unexpected change, the extended July deadline offered last year because of the pandemic is no longer an option.

Hey, we've all been wishing for a return to normalcy, right? Maybe not exactly what you had in mind, but it might make you feel better to consider this a step in the direction of life in a post-pandemic world.

Whether you prepare your returns yourself, pay an accountant or other professional, or have a friend or relative handle your tax filing, here are a few tips that could make this annual rite a little easier and perhaps help save you money:

First and foremost, get organized. Dust off your copy of last year's return. If you don't have it and can't get a copy from your preparer, you can order it from the IRS. If you used one of the many online tax prep software programs, it's likely archived there.

Gather all of your tax-related documents such as W-2s, 1099s, and other forms you need to prove the income you earned, including Social Security, pension payments, and unemployment benefits, and any withholding you selected (give yourself a pat on the back if you had taxes withheld from the latter two because chances are you'll get a bigger refund).

If you received federal stimulus payments (either one or both issued in 2020), the good news is they are not counted as taxable income. However, if you received less than the full amount in either or both of the two rounds of stimulus, that could impact your 2020 return, so you'll want to be able to reference that information.

Did you keep all your receipts for charitable contributions, work expenses eligible for deductions, and the miles you logged on your vehicle for work? If yes, give yourself another pat on the back. If not, you might want to invest some time in getting that together. Documentation of student loan interest paid last year and any debt that was charged off translate into credits and liabilities, too, so you'll want that at your fingertips.

This is just a starter list. To get a comprehensive checklist of everything you'll need to be ready for tax return preparation, go to irs.gov or contact your tax prep professional.

We have a resource for you that many might be surprised to learn about — AARP. Did you know the AARP TaxAide program provides IRS-trained volunteers to prepare returns for anyone who asks? Free of charge. This is NOT limited to AARP members or even seniors in general. Taxpayers of any age can use this valuable service. They even handle returns for eligible small businesses. The only limitation is this program is intended for those in the middle-income bracket and lower. There is an income ceiling and those who exceed it are not likely eligible for the service.

For everyone else, it's a well-regarded service that includes e-filing (which you want; It means faster processing and less time to get a refund if you're due one). AARP suspended this program just about a year ago in response to the pandemic because the service was provided in-person at libraries, senior centers and other public facilities. Since then, they have had time to plan and adjust and AARP TaxAide now offers drop-off and virtual service using secure servers that protect your Social Security number and other vital personal information.

There are some in-person appointments, but none in our immediate area. For all the information about that program, go to taxaide.aarpfoundation.org.

So, are you ready to "render unto Caesar?" If not, make it a priority. April 15 will be here before you know it.



SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Should I put in for Social Security now, or at 70?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm currently 67-years-old and still working full time. I took a big financial hit in 2008, which is why I'm still working, and I expect to continue working until I'm 70. My question is: should I take Social Security now, bank it until I'm 70, and then pay it out to myself upon retirement? Or would it be better to hold off until I'm 70 to claim? Longevity of about 85 seems to run in my family.

Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: I'm afraid there's no simple answer to your question, but I'll give you some points to ponder.

If you don't need the money right now, and you expect to enjoy at least average longevity (about 85 for a man your current age), then waiting until you're 70 will give you the maximum monthly benefit and the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits if you meet average longevity. And if you live beyond the average, your cumulative lifetime benefits will be correspondingly more. Since you've already delayed past your full retirement age of 66, you are already earning delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at the rate of 8% for each full year you delay (the maximum Social Security benefit is reached at age 70).

Can you do better than an 8% annual increase by claiming now and saving or investing the money? That would be the main point to evaluate, and only you know your investment options. But you should also consider that if you

should die before your wife and she has reached her full retirement age, your wife will get 100% of the benefit you are receiving at your death. If you claim earlier (e.g., now), your wife will get that earlier smaller amount as your widow. Compare that to what she'll get by you waiting until age 70 to claim, when your benefit will be about 24% more than it is now. Again, something for you to consider.

If you claim at age 70 you will have collected about the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had claimed now. That is your "breakeven" point, which is where your expected longevity comes into play. If you think you will beat the average and you do, you'll collect much more in total lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until you are 70 to claim. Of course, no one knows how long they will live, but if your family history suggests a long life and you're in good health now, delaying is usually a prudent choice. That is, however, a decision only you can make.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor at AMAC.

Free tax assistance offered through VITA program

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Partner for Community Action is gearing up for the annual free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Income eligible taxpayers earning less than \$57,000 annually qualify and should call 413- 263-6500 to schedule an appointment.

VITA volunteers assist low wage earners complete their 2020 federal and state income tax returns in addition to the earned income tax credits, child tax credit and education credits. Further making sure taxpayer claim and receive all state and federal tax benefits, including the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax benefit designed to assist working families. It has been called the most significant federal program of lifting Americans out of poverty.

Paul F. Bailey, executive director, said, "although we are closed to the public, the agency continues to assist participants. "This year due to COVID-19 we are implementing a new system using a drop box method. Drop box will allow

participants to safely drop-off all required tax documents in advance. Volunteer tax preparers will complete and follow up. Completed taxes will be mailed or we can arrange for pickups".

Springfield Partners also offer the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) designed to assist taxpayers having issues before the IRS and/or the State Department of Revenue. If you've received a notice form either state of federal tax authority or if you need to file prior year taxes you should call Mary Ellen at 413-263-6500 ext. 6565 or Marty O'Connor at 413-263-6500 ext. 6566.

Springfield Partners is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield and parts of Western MA. We offer several programs and services including Eviction Clinic, Housing Counseling, Credit Counseling, Financial Literacy, Weatherization, Veterans Services, Emergency Fuel, New Beginnings Early Education & Care, COVID-19 Emergency Response, Scholarships and Telephone Reassurance.



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Fire department awarded FEMA grant

BOSTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today \$3.9 million in direct assistance grants to 288 volunteer and combination fire departments nationwide through the agency's FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant COVID-19 Supplemental program (AFG-S).

The AFG-S Program includes grants to the following fire departments in Massachusetts:

Agawam, MA- Agawam Fire Department- \$2,272

Authorized and funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S) is a \$100 million supplemental funding opportunity to support the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and related disinfectant supplies and equipment to help the fire services prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By law, 25 percent of the available

AFG-S funds must be awarded to volunteer fire departments and another 25 percent must be awarded to combination fire departments. The funding being announced today encompasses the fulfillment of that requirement to volunteer and combination fire departments. A volunteer fire department means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel. A combination fire department means a fire department that has paid firefighting personnel and volunteer firefighting personnel. Fire departments which pay fees/stipends (paid on-call firefighters) are also considered under this category.

FEMA obligates funding for this project directly to the recipient fire department. It is the recipient's responsibility to manage their grant award within federal guidelines with technical assistance and monitoring provided by FEMA Fire Program Specialists. Additional information about FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters grant programs may be found at <https://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

Gift shop open limited hours

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for their patronage during these difficult times and we will continue to pray for health, peace and strength as we all journey through 2021 together. You may contact our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 413-786-8200 ext.3 with any questions or concerns.

Turley Publications wants to hear from you

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At Turley Publications, we strive to reach all our readers. In that effort, we have created an online survey to learn about how our readers get their news. Please complete this survey to educate us on how we can best reach you, the reader. The 10-question survey takes about two minutes to complete online. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBSJ69F>. Thank you.

Monday Madness kicks off March at the Agawam Library

AGAWAM – The month of March is getting started with Monday Madness at the Agawam Library. Throughout the month, we will be hosting Monday night virtual games for individuals and families. Games like Trivia and Bingo will be offered on Zoom on March, 8, 22 and 29 at 7 p.m. Monday, March 8: BINGO Monday, March 22: Online Scattergories Monday, March 29: Kahoot Famous People Trivia

All games will be held on Zoom. A secondary device (phone or tablet) will be needed for trivia nights so that participants can submit their answers. The content of the games is suggested for grade 5 and above. Registration is required, as there is limited space. Please visit www.agawamlibrary.org to register.

Patrons will now have the option of mobile printing at the library. Mobile users can visit our online printer portal or download the PrinterOn app to print from

laptops and mobile devices. Instructions for each of these options are listed on our website: <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/services/> Print jobs can be picked up at the Reference Desk on the lower level where the librarians are happy to answer questions.

The Agawam Library is pleased to have been chosen as the March recipient of the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program. The library will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the reusable Community Bag at the Feeding Hills Stop & Shop.

The library continues to offer services 6 days a week. Grab & Go Services are available Monday-Saturday. Forty-five minute Computer Use and Browsing appointments are available Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Please call to make an appointment: 413-789-1550. Library staff are in the building 6 days a week to answer your questions and take your reading requests.

Consignment shop holding annual bag sale

AGAWAM – The Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam will be holding its popular \$5 bag sale starting Wednesday, Feb. 24 through Wednesday March 10, including Saturday, Mar. 6. This sale is held a few times each year to help clear out inventory of seasonal clothing to make room for the next seasons items.

Just buy a bag for \$5 and fill it with as many designated adult and children sized winter clothing articles as you can. Some handbags, hats, scarves and shoes will also be part of the stuff a bag sale. In addition,

many other things will be half price. This will include books, CD's/DVD's/VHS, jewelry and select household/gift pieces.

For customers who wish to either donate or offer clothing for consignment, we are now accepting spring and summer only.

Our hours of operation are Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope to see you.

For future news and information, please visit our The Trading Post Consignment Shop Facebook page or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Openings now available for the CPA Committee

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there are two openings effective April 30 for the Agawam Community Preservation Act Committee. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the Agawam City Council office as soon as possible at (413) 726-9716 or email at bbard@agawam.ma.us

Lions make donation to APL

The Agawam Lions Foundation, Inc. donated new diabetes text resources to the Children's Library at the Agawam Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 27.

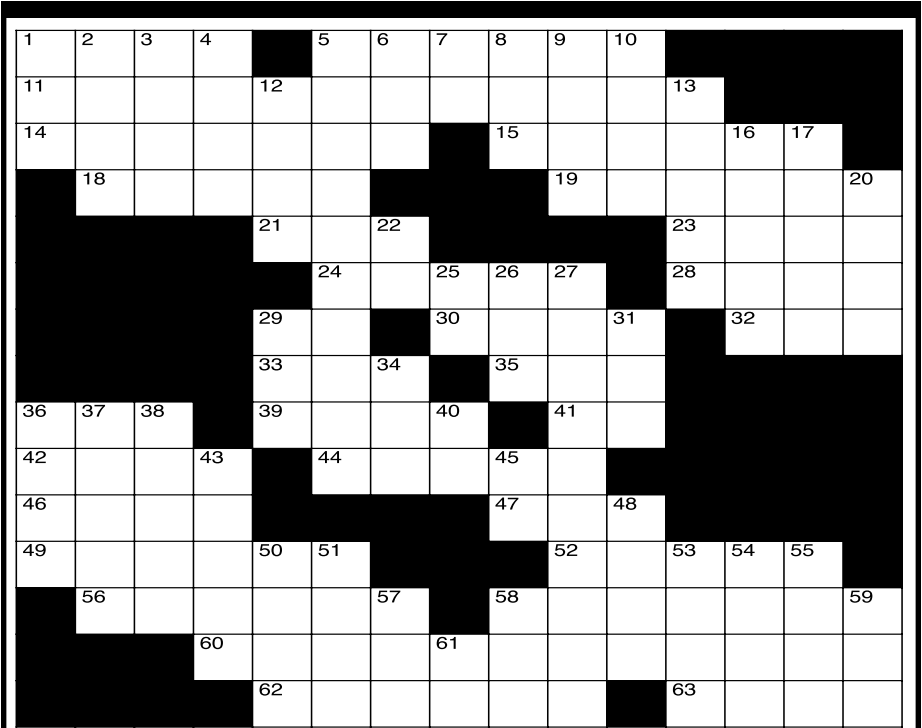
This donation is part of the Agawam Lions' ongoing focus on diabetes education, awareness, and support to our Agawam community. The diabetes text resources include materials for young children, teens, and parent/caregivers and cover both Type

1 and Type 2 diabetes.

A diabetes diagnosis can be overwhelming and in some cases, life changing for children, teens, and families. It is our hope that by donating these materials, we can help those in our community that are affected by diabetes find relevant and current information in a format that is relatable and helpful.



The Agawam Lions Foundation, Inc. donated new diabetes text resources to the Children's Library at the Agawam Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 27. Pictured are (left) Children's Librarian, Pamela Weingart and (right) Agawam Lions President, Deb Andrews. SUBMITTED PHOTO



CLUES ACROSS

- One of Noah's sons
- Openings
- Rising from the dead
- Expressions for humorous effect
- North American country
- Flowed over
- Tags
- Long-lasting light bulb
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Beloved movie pig
- South Dakota
- Tai language
- Get free of
- Afflict
- Transmits genetic information from DNA
- Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- A title of respect in India
- His and ___
- Employee stock ownership plan
- A type of bond

(abbr.)

- Acting as if you are
- Affirmative
- Not caps
- Type of medication
- Monetary unit
- Private school in New York
- Small stream
- A person of wealth
- Exclude
- Someone who vouches for you
- Vegetable part
- Gov't lawyer
- Term to address a woman
- Swiss river
- About senator
- ___ Paulo, city
- Native American tribe
- "Titanic" actor
- Campaign for students' rights

(abbr.)

- Capital of Senegal
- Slang for military leader
- Football's big game
- Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
- Equally
- Forest animal
- Heavy stoves
- Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- Song
- Type of pickle
- Offer in return for money
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Burns wood (abbr.)
- Beloved singer Charles
- Three-toed sloth

Schools & Youth

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Reminders:

Scheduling for the 2021-2022 school year is just around the corner! Students should be on the lookout for an email that was sent to their APS account. We are excited to move this process fully online this year!

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

Student registration is now open for the NEACAC Spring College Fairs, which will be held on the following dates and times: Sunday, March 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, April 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. To date, there are over 170 colleges that are registered to participate in the program. Registration for students and school counselors is required, but free of charge. Please visit: neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual_Spring to register.

The National Association of College Admission Counseling will be hosting Focus Fairs designed especially for students with special interests or residing in specific regions: STEM (March 7), Performing & Visual Arts (March 16), Western US (April 10), and Southeastern US (April 20). Students may register at virtualcollegefairs.org

Whether you've already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, March 7. Please visit cb.org/bigfuturedays to register.

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time,

it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

Scholarship Information:

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

The Department of Higher Education (in partnership with EOHHS and the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission) will be offering the Moving to College Housing Scholarship. This scholarship will include year-round, on-campus housing, a meal plan and case management (it does NOT cover the cost of tuition, books or transportation) for students who enroll in a full-time in a degree-seeking program at one of the participating colleges: Berkshire Community College, Mass College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Framingham State University, Mt. Wachusett Community College, Fitchburg State University, North Shore Community College and Salem State University. To be eligible, students must have experienced unaccompanied youth homelessness, be a US citizen or permanent resident/green card holder, and meet income limits. More information and the application can be found here: doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html. Please note that applications are due by March 1.

The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class and have been on an IEP or 504 Plan for two years. Please visit horacesmithfund.org for an application. The application deadline is March 15.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents to Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. Please see horacesmithfund.org for details. The application deadline is March 15.

The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) – CT Chapter is pleased to offer multiple scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical Engineering. The students must be enrolled full-time for the complete year. The application is available at pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/ and is due no later than March 17.

Seniors who attended the James Clark School (two-year minimum) are encouraged to apply for the James Clark PTO Scholarship. Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than March 29.

The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts is offering a scholarship of \$1000 to qualified seniors who plan to further their education by attending a two or four-year college program. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by March 30.

The Agawam Municipal Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors or any persons pursuing their education beyond secondary school. The committee shall take into consideration each recipient's financial need, character, scholastic record, and involvement in school and community. The applications deadline is March 31.

Western Massachusetts seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing or graphics arts and will be attending in September 2021 are encouraged to apply for the scholarship offered by The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts. Applications are available at adclubwm.org and must be postmarked on or before March 31. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work

experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans. More information is available at adclubwm.org

The Pascal A. Deliso Scholarship is offered to students with distinguished academic ability, regular involvement in community service, commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, one parent of Italian descent, and have an acceptance to an accredited two- or four-year college or university. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted by April 1.

Participate in virtual photograph show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn't do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappoints.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been determined by our esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at

r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.



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Schools & Youth

Agawam Public Library announces March activities

Programs and activities for kids and teens:
Mar. 8 to 12

Book bundles For all ages

Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new? We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.

Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

Krafty Kids: Glittery Pot of Gold Craft Kit For ages 3-5

Preschool children can make a make their own pot of gold and can hang it up as part of their home décor for good luck.

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Shamrock String Art For grades 1-4

Make Shamrock string art! Once completed, you will have a seasonal accent you can hang in your room as bedroom décor on the luckiest day of the year.

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Luck of the Irish Bracelet For grades 5-12

Make a lucky Irish bracelet to keep for yourself or to give as a gift. This shamrock accessory is a fun addition to jewelry supplies and will complete just about any outfit on St. Patrick's Day.

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

March Madness: BINGO For individuals and families

Come play a fun game of BINGO. This program is ideal for individuals in grade 5 and older or families who work together.

Monday, Mar. 8 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

Participants will participate in a Zoom format to hear the numbers called and will need a second device to use to mark their online BINGO cards.

The winners will get a small prize, and bragging rights.

Spring Decorating Contest For kids of all ages

Collect spring decorating supplies beginning on Mar. 8.

Make a spring creation, send us a picture of your finished project before Mar. 26, at Agawam-childrenslibrary@gmail.com for a chance to win a small prize!

Winners in four age groups, pre-K, K-4, 5-8 and 9-12 will be announced on Mar. 29.

Stay-at-home Storytime For ages 3-5

Let's explore dinosaurs! Miss Susan will share some dinosaur stories and a simple craft on video beginning on Mar. 8.

The video will be posted at <https://www.agawam-library.org/children/> starting Mar. 8.

Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Mar. 15 to 19 Book Bundles For all ages

Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?

We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.

Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

Songs & Signs – For babies & their caregivers

Enjoy a short video of Ms. Pamela singing songs and teaching some basic sign language for babies and their caregivers.

The video will be posted at <https://www.agawam-library.org/children/> on Mar. 15.

Mar. 22 to 26 Book bundles For all ages

Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?

We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.

Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

Krafty Kids: 3D Rainbow Fun For ages 3-5

Children in preschool can follow Ms. Rose as she takes you through the steps to make a colorful rainbow craft.

The video will be posted at <https://www.agawam-library.org/children/> on Mar. 22.

Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: 3D Paper Flowers For grades 1-4

Students in grades 1-4 can follow Ms Susan as she takes you through the steps to make simple 3D paper flowers for spring.

The video will be posted at <https://www.agawam-library.org/children/> on Mar. 22.

Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Paper Hyacinth Flower For grades 5-12

Students in grades 5 to 12 can follow Ms Pamela as she takes you through the steps to make hyacinth paper flowers for spring.

The video will be posted at <https://www.agawam-library.org/children/> on Mar. 22.

Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

March Madness: Scattergories For individuals and families

Come play a fun game of Scattergories. This program is ideal for individuals in grade 5 and older or families who work together.

Monday, Mar. 22 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

The winners will get a small prize, and bragging rights.

Mar. 29 to Apr 2 Book bundles – For all ages

Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?

We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.

Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

March Madness: Famous people trivia For individuals and families

Test your knowledge of Famous People Trivia with a fun trivia game using Kahoot. This program is ideal for individuals in grade 5 and older or families who work together.

Monday, Mar. 29 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

Participants will view the questions in a Zoom format and will need a second device to use to submit their answers.

The winners will get a small prize, and bragging rights.

Agawam Junior High School honor roll

AGAWAM – Agawam Junior High School has announced its honor roll for the second term of the 2020-2021 school year.

Grade 7

Jordin Agosto, Jason Albro, Anthony Amato, Dawood Atanane, Abdul-Kateem Awkal, Cecelia Baldyga, Maddie Balzano, Anthony Barbarini, Samuel Beckwith, Brady Blanchette, Andrew Boucher, Hope Bradlee, Maximillian Bradlee, Jace Brogan, Abigail Brown, Nicholas Brown, Ruslan Bubuz, Noah Bushnik, Carlina Calabrese, Donna Carrier, Maggie Carrier, James Cascio, Aidan Cauley, Vincy Cheung, Dominic Chriscola, Diane Circosta-Aspinall, Chloe Clark, Heidi Clarke, Thomas Connery, Dharbi Cooper, Liam Curley, Cameron DePratti, Jaden Diaz,

Aaron Doncell Acuna, Omar Elgendy, Brayden Federico, Eva Feuerstein, Lucas Fillion, Megan Fitzgerald, Alison Fox, Sydney Frasier, Abigale Gagnon, Brady Gagnon, Kayleigh Garvey, Chase Gerani, Tyler Gervais, Evelyn Gionfriddo, Juliana Giordano, Connor Glynn, Avery Gordon, Liam Grealis, Gabriella Grechka, Aiden Guzman, Ryan Haglund, Austin Hamberg, Cooper Hermans, Brody Hollister, Andrew Holton, Cole Ingham, Nadia Izoita, Shreya Jha, Juliet Johnson, Patrick Keating, Zoe Kellogg-Brodeur, Nolan King, Sarah Kriebel, Angelina Kripakova, Isabella Laprise, Sophia Laprise, Matilda Larochelle, Mia Laudato, Aiden Lavelle,

Marissa Leary, Jason Liacos, Nolan Longo, Kiley Lukas, Kayla Lukin, Michael Lukomski, Finnola Mahoney, Alison Majkowski, Payton Malanson, Kaitlyn Maloney, Chloe McCarthy,

Brandon Metras, Arianna Michaelis, Neve Mickiewicz, Trevor Midura, Eva Montagna, Daniel Morgun, Keira Murphy, Hannah Newsome, Alexander Nguyen, Hannah Nguyen, Joey Nguyen, Isabella Novak, Zachary O'Connor, Destiny Ortiz, Emily Paquette, Jazlyn Phommachanh, Thomas Poulin, Milana Radionova, Jayden Ramos, Sophia Raymond, Madison Rios, JanaRose Robbins, Henry Rondeau, Timothy Rua, Jason Ruge, Daniel Ruha, Daniel Saeed, Tyler Saroglou, Maxim Savonin, Katelyn Scott, Sofia Shevchuk, Timothy Sholopa, Giuliana Silva, Ethan Stack, Andrea Sypek, Lilly Teixeira, Aiden Therrien, Jayden Tonelli, Caroline Toto, Domenic Tourigny, Ella Ukrainets, Olivia Unglaub, Toni Vassallo, Terceira Vaughn, Ayden Vrijenhoek, Josiah Wyner, David Zhmaidziak

Grade 8

David Abramchuk, Mariah Aponte, Landon Ashford, Mattias Barbour, Leah Barker, Arianna Bashinskiy, Alyssa Beaver, Kyra Benard, Shayna Bennett, Meghan Berthiaume, Jolene Bertone-Gross, Lucas Blackak, Tanner Blake, Joseph Bonci, Gabriella Bouchard, Lillianna Bruneau, Alivia Calvanese, Sofia Calvanese, Autumn Carmen, Vincent Catelotti, Lucy Chivers, Leah Chobotaru, Katelyn Cleavall, Evan Connery, Gabriela Cosentini, John Cote, Riley Cross, Joseph Culhane, Eric Daris, Samantha Dean, Shane DeFilipi, Aiden DeForge, Ashley DeForge, Trevor Del Barba, Allison Deveno, Joseph Donovan, Kyle Douglas, Abigail Drumm, Shaun Dwyer, David Dzenzherukha, Ava Elias, Hannah Emmons, Alexandra Fillion, Nicholas Fontaine, Tegan Fullam, Juliana Garcia, Emma Gendron, EmmaAnn Gilbert, Nadine Gilbert, Jonathan Gingeruha, Emily Gonzalez, Jayden Gonzalez, Hailey Goulet, Vivian Gouvin, Emma Grabiec, Natalie Hall, Lucille Hildreth, Marybeth Hinshaw, Maxwell Holloway, Sebastian Howard, Margaret Ireland, Faith Jodoin, Riley Jorgensen, Ryan Kenny, Emma LaCaresse, Kaitlyn LaFrance, Angelina Lavrenchuk, Max Leverson, Vincenzo Liquori, Jonathan Lopez, Ava Machado, Noah Manale, Brianna Manes, Kaitlyn Mansur, Noella Marsh, Alivia McKay, Erin McLaughlin, Kaylie Menard, Elina Michelakis, Colby Mikuszewski, Marlee Montagna, Vincent Montagna, Bryan Moore, Grace Moriarty, Ahminah Murchison, Ahmiyah Murchison, Michael Natale, Arianna Nivar, Jayden Njonge, Victoria Okyere, Isabella Oliveira, Madison Oyler, Joseph Parent, Hannah Parker, Caleb Phillips, Addison Quenneville, Makenzie Richard, April Rider, Lucas Ritson, Christina Ritter, Adam Ross, Yusuf Sarhan, Lisa Schneider, Nazar Sereda, Gavin Shlosser, Michael Sibilia, Bryson Smith, Isabella Spaulding, Kathryn Szabla, Melih Tomak, Kaylee Vezina, Rian Villareal, Salvatore Vivenzio, Nikita Vorobey, Caleb White, Genevieve White, Konnor Widmer, John Yi, Arda Yilmaz, Anna Zhao

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SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Girls basketball concludes successful winter season



Stephanie Maloni heads up for the layup. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOG-
PHOTOS.COM



Gianna Smith reaches over her opponents for a shot.



Delaney Brown makes her way down the court.



Jazmin Dunbar gets the easy shot.



Grace Frasier attempts the three-pointer.

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls basketball team was able to engage in a very robust winter schedule that included 12 games. The Brownies faced West Springfield, Westfield, Ludlow, Pope Francis, and even had a late-season matchup against Ware, going 6-6 for the season.

BASKETBALL

More racers gearing up for modified series

SEEKONK – When the Tri Track Open Modified Series season takes the green flag on May 1 at Monadnock Speedway, the field will be stacked full of talent. One of the talented stars is rising New Hampshire racer Matthew Kimball, who is a former Mini Stock champion and currently a competitor in the Sportsman Modified division at multiple tracks in the Granite State.

Kimball, who does have limited starts with Tri Track, is hoping to be able to run the entire six-race slate in 2021. His most important goal will be to be consistent, learn more about the Tour-Type Modifieds, and come home with solid top-10 finishes. He also plans to compete full-time at Monadnock in the Apex Racing No. 11 in the track's Sportsman Modifieds and hopes to chase the NASCAR Division I National Championship, if the first few weeks of the season go well.



Matt Kimball is another hopeful to win the Tri Track this year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

“It’s always good to try and get your name out there and this is a great opportunity to do that,” Kimball said. “We want to win races, but we are going to go race-by-race, and see what the schedules look like, so we don’t have conflicts. We’re going to take this year step-by-step. We would

like to finish top-10 in the Tri Track points.”

Kimball, who won the Mini Stock title at Monadnock in 2018, started his career in go-karts, and moved to the Mini Stocks at the age of 13. From there, he sat behind the wheel of a modified at

WRESTLING

Wrestling still not cleared for competitions as spring looms

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In an effort to fit every sport into the modified high school seasons, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association decided to move wrestling from the winter to the spring season. With football occurring during the Fall 2 season, it was decided wrestling should take place during the spring.

However, at a recent meeting of MIAA Wrestling Committee, it was announced the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs had still not cleared the sport of wrestling for Level 3 activity, which allows for competitions to occur. If wrestling is not allowed to have level 3 activity, meets cannot occur.

In the meeting, it was reported that football will be observed

during the next three weeks. Due to the close contact involved in football, the EEA will be looking at the sport to compare it to the close contact that will occur in wrestling. Spring sports are set to begin in late April, early May.

According to the minute of the committee meeting, if the EEA makes the decision to move wrestling into the level 3 status, then modifications for the sport will be presented for approval by the MIAA.

In addition to observation of football, the status of vaccination in the Commonwealth will also play into the lifting of restrictions at the state level. It was recently announced large sports venues like Fenway Park would be allowed to open beginning March 22 at 12 percent capacity as part of the beginning of Phase 4 of the state’s re-opening plan.



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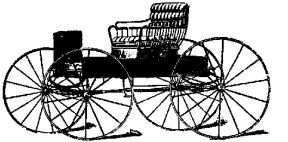
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HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD19P2229PM
In the matter of:
Alice A MacDonald
Of: Agawam, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/
Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First Annual** account(s) of Jewish Family Service of Western MA of Springfield, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before

10:00 a.m. on the return date of **03/17/2021**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about

personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 17, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

03/04/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD18P0849EA
Estate of:
Doris G Preston
Date of Death: 12/17/2017
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Linda**

J Preston of Conway, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, the allowance of a proposed distribution, as stated in the Settlement Agreement filed herein and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceed-

ing. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/22/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken

without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 17, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/04/2021

PUBLIC NOTICES | page 12

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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Entries for shoebox parade due soon

HOLYOKE — Miss the annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade?

Wish there was a way to share your pride in the city's annual celebration? Fear not.

All you need is a shoebox and your imagination.

Then get ready to strut your stuff in the first-ever Holyoke St. Patrick's Shoebox Parade Party.

The online event featuring videos of parade floats made out of shoeboxes will take place March 17th in celebration of Holyoke's annual St. Patrick's Day weekend festivities.

The inaugural event was recently launched by the Committee to Elect Rebecca Lisi, a mayoral candidate in Holyoke. The virtual Shoebox Parade will be a COVID-safe community event in celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Holyoke, a city known throughout the region for its St. Patrick's Day Parade and weekend festivities.

"The Holyoke community has suffered a great loss due to the cancellation of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and all its corresponding events for two years now due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Lisi. "There's no way that we could ever replace the Parade and all the festivities leading up to that weekend, but my Committee and I thought that we could create a small, virtual event that could engage families and bring the community together."

Crafting and displaying shoebox floats is a popular children's event in communities like New Orleans that have a strong tradition of celebrating Mardi Gras. In 2020, cities across the country adopted shoebox float parades as a way to safely celebrate Thanksgiving and other holidays in light of the pandemic restrictions on gatherings. This year, Lisi and her Committee have created a Facebook Shoebox Parade Party event that will allow the Holyoke community to honor the decades long tradition of celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the city while adapting and innovating the event to make it safe and accessible.

Community members are being asked to create and decorate shoebox floats that will become a part of a virtual photo party that will occur on the Committee's Facebook Event Page throughout the month of March, with a video shoebox parade compilation airing on Wednesday, March 17 at 4

p.m. Photo and video submissions are due on Monday, March 8, submission details are outlined on the Parade Party Event Page on Facebook.

Once you have crafted your float, snap a photo and quick video to share your zany creation with us by Monday, March 8th to holyokeshoeboxparade@gmail.com so that we can share them with the world. In the end, we will compile a video of all of the floats to create our own virtual parade that you can watch on our page on March 17th.

There will be prizes for different category winners including Greatest Holyoke Spirit, Best Dressed Float, Ultimate St. Paddy's Day Float, Most Creative Float, and most social media engagements. There will also be a People's Choice Award for the Shoebox Float with the most social media engagement, so make sure to like, comment, and share your work of genius with your family and friends!

"This is a wonderful way to bring the community together in a fun and safe way, especially since we aren't able to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in person as usual," said Shannon Sarkisian, Associate Campaign Advisor and Volunteer Coordinator. "I can't wait to see the creative things that people will come up with! As for myself, I'm going all out to attempt to make a shoebox that embodies our beloved Ashley Reservoir. My shoebox float might not even look good, but it's guaranteed to be good fun for sure."

Campaign committee member Jeff Trask said, "After being cooped up inside all winter in even 'normal times,' by March we are all looking forward to coming out of our homes for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Since we are not able to come out to celebrate the Parade this year, this will be a little event to lift everyone's spirits. I'm looking forward to participating with my little one and possibly starting a new family tradition."

Lisi and her Committee launched the event today and has already generated a lot of enthusiastic support.

Rules and submission guidelines for St. Paddy's Day Shoebox Parade Party:

Step 1 — Pick a theme:

This is your chance to create whatever you can dream! Be as innovative and collaborative as possible and use

your imagination. You can pick any theme you want, but know that floats will be judged in the following categories:

- Greatest Holyoke Spirit
- Best Dressed Float
- Ultimate St. Paddy's Day Float
- Most Creative Float

Step 2 - Gather your materials and create your shoebox float!

Start with a shoebox or any similar shaped box as your base. Add clay, paint, markers, crayons, craft supplies, paper, feathers, sequins, flowers, seeds, toys, photos pretty much anything to bring your vision to life!

Step 3 – Snap a photo and video and submit them!

Video submissions are to be:

- No more than 15 seconds long
- Filmed horizontally (cell phone videos are welcome!)
- Of your float being pulled by a string from the right to the left of the screen (so it looks like it's moving!)
- Emailed to holyokeshoeboxparade@gmail.com no later than Monday, March 8th.

Submit the video and snapshot of your shoebox float via email along with your Name, Age, title of float, and a brief description of materials used. Include your Facebook profile name and/or URL, so that we can tag you when we post your float photo.

Float theme and video content must be family-friendly and the Committee reserves the right to determine the acceptability and appropriateness of all submissions.

Step 4: View photos of the floats on our page and vote for your favorite one!

You will be able to see your submission along with the submissions of others on the event page.

The photo with the most social engagement (likes, comments, and shares) will win the grand prize!

Step 5 – Join us virtually in watching the parade party video!

Gather your family, friends and neighbors and grab your front row seat in the comfort of your own home and watch our Shoebox Parade Party on our Facebook event page on March 17. Stay tuned for more updates!

Apply for garden club scholarship

AGAWAM – Applications are now available for the Agawam Garden Club scholarship. To qualify for the scholarship students must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School or a college student who graduated from Agawam High School. Applicants must be majoring in or planning on majoring in one of the following: botany, environmental engineering, environmental science, earths systems, forest management, natural resources, plant soil and insect science, sustainable agriculture, sustainable horticulture or food and farming, turf grass science and management, landscape design and management technology, clean energy, technology studies: wastewater or other environmental related studies. Applications are available through Agawam High School or can be found on our website at agawamgardenclub.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES ■ from page 11

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P0321EA
Estate of:
Marilyn Rose Erickson
Also Known As:
Marilyn R. Erickson
Date of Death:
November 14, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robin Gebrian** of West Hartford, CT.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/04/2021

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
LEGAL NOTICE
Date: February 5, 2021**
Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing via **ZOOM** on **Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Chapter 180, Paragraphs 90 thru 103, (Article XIV) to allow for the installation of a Personal Wireless Service Facility at the premises identified as 128 Southwick Street; commonly known as the Agawam Golf Course.
Doreen A. Prouty Chairperson
Zoning Board of Appeals
Join Zoom Meeting
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02/25, 03/04/2021

ADVERTISEMENT
The Agawam Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the

Wade Village 705-1, Family Housing Development for the Agawam Housing Authority in Agawam, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Roy S. Brown Architects.

The Project consists of:
Replacement of existing double hung and awning windows with new vinyl windows. Replacement of existing vinyl siding and trim with new cellular PVC siding and trim. Project scope applicable to four (4) separate housing buildings and three (3) separate storage buildings (see site plan for building locations).

The work is estimated to cost: **One hundred fifty-six thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$156,850).**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

For projects with an estimated construction cost of over \$100,000, General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), according to Article 2.1 in Section 00.21.00 Instructions to Bidders, in the category of: **General Construction**

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, 2021** and publicly opened, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at **www.Projectdog.com** and received no later than the date and time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E-Bid Tutorial and Instructions, click **here** to download the **Supplemental Instructions To Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects** from www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Agawam Housing Authority**.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available electronically or for purchase at **www.Projectdog.com** on **Wednesday, March 03, 2021**; Project Code 841486.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection between **2 P.M. and 3 P.M. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.**

For an appointment other than the scheduled walk-thru above, call **Maureen Cayer, Executive Director at the Agawam Housing Authority at (413) 786-1297.**
03/04/2021

St. Patrick's Road Race going virtual for 2021

HOLYOKE – If you haven't heard by now, for the second year in a row, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race has been cancelled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19.

We certainly didn't come to this decision lightly but in the interest of our participants, volunteers, and our community we have cancelled this year's in person race. We've been looking forward to the race since the cancellation last year, never thinking this pandemic would last this long.

We understand that this isn't a replacement for the real thing but running with 7,000 others right now is not possible, but we will try to make it just as fun! This March we will hold the second Virtual Holyoke St Patrick's Day Road Race. Create your own 10K route (or use ours!) and compete against other runners. We will provide a familiar looking t-shirt, printable custom bib number, free beer, and local giveaways.

Go to <http://racewire.com/register.php?id=11824> for all the details to register.

Lastly, thank you for your patience and support over the last year. The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke works tirelessly year-round to make this "Homecoming Weekend" the best one of the year. We look forward to the opportunity to host you on the streets of Holyoke for the 45th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race in March 2022.



You can create your own course for this year's virtual Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race. SUBMITTED PHOTO